

sources of release to the environment, chemical fate, human and environmental effects, and human exposure.

DATES: Submit written notice of interest to be designated an "interested party" by November 24, 1987. A public meeting will be held on October 27, 1987.

ADDRESS: Submit written notice of interest in being designated an "interested party" in triplicate identified by the document control number (OPTS-42104) to: TSCA Public Information Office (TS-793), Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances, Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. NE-G004, 401 M St. SW., Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edward A. Klein, Director, TSCA Assistance Office (TS-790), Office of Toxic Substances, Rm. E-543, 401 M St. SW., Washington, DC 20460, (202) 554-1414.

Persons interested in attending the public meeting should notify EPA by telephone on or before October 20, 1987.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA is issuing this notice to solicit public participation, and to gather information for determining whether to proceed with a test rule or develop a testing consent agreement for the chemical substance nonylphenol.

I. Background

Nonylphenol is a mixture of monoalkyl phenols, with mostly para-substitution; the side chains are isomeric branched nonyl-groups. The production volume of nonylphenol is expected to reach 165 million pounds by 1987. There are about 15 manufacturing companies in the U.S. that produce alkylphenol ethoxylate surfactants, using approximately 97.5 to 112.5 million pounds of nonylphenol. Its principal use has been as an intermediate in the production of nonionic ethoxylated surfactants, comprising approximately 70 percent of the total production. Nonylphenol ethoxylate is the dominant alkylphenol ethoxylate surfactant. Other uses as an intermediate include nonylphenol in the processing of phosphite antioxidants (15 percent); oil additives and synthetic lubricants (10 percent); polyvinyl chloride plasticizers, pharmaceuticals, and as corrosion inhibitors (5 percent).

The Testing Priority Committee (TPC) of the Office of Toxic Substances was established on February 27, 1986, for the primary purpose of coordinating the nomination of chemicals for testing by various EPA offices. The TPC-recommended chemicals were to be based either on special data development needs, or recommended in

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Nonylphenol; Testing Consent Agreement Development and Solicitation for Public Participation

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces EPA's Office of Toxic Substances recommendation of nonylphenol (CAS No. 25154-52-3) for testing under section 4 of the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA). Based on the recommendations, EPA is considering developing a testing consent agreement order or a test rule for nonylphenol. Public Participation is solicited. For this purpose, a public meeting will be held October 27, 1987, to gather information regarding industrial products and uses of nonylphenol.

an effort to coordinate extensive TSCA testing activities with those of other offices in EPA involved with testing programs. The TPC nominated nonylphenol on July 30, 1987, for testing consideration under TSCA based on its review of the available data (primarily from the Chemical Hazard Information Profile on nonylphenol) and as part of an intra- and interagency review with other EPA program offices and Federal agencies. Therefore, through TPC's recommendation of nonylphenol, EPA is investigating this chemical for data gaps and testing needs as identified from this review.

From its participation in the interagency review, EPA's Office of Water Regulations and Standards has recommended acute testing of saltwater invertebrates, and chronic testing of saltwater and freshwater invertebrates, including benthic forms, and freshwater fish. EPA's Office of Solid Waste has commented on its concerns regarding nonylphenol and the potential of risk from environmental releases and exposures. In addition, the Food and Drug Administration (Bureau of Foods) has recommended that more information be provided on the chemical fate of nonylphenol, especially on how the parent compound relates to the conjugated forms.

II. Identification of Interested Parties

In accordance with 40 CFR 790.28, the testing negotiation procedures are initiated by the publication of this Federal Register notice, in which EPA is requesting interested persons to notify the Agency in writing of their intent to participate towards the development of consent agreement. All individuals and groups who respond to this notice will be given the status of "interested parties", and will be afforded opportunities to participate in the negotiation process. There will not be any obligations incurred by individuals and groups designated "interested parties". The procedures for these negotiations are described in 40 CFR 790.22.

Individuals and groups desiring to have the status of "interested parties" in the development of negotiations of nonylphenol under TSCA section 4 should submit a written notice of this fact to the Agency at the address given above before November 24, 1987. The Agency is considering initiating the consent agreement process because EPA believes this process will lead to the development of necessary test data significantly earlier than through rulemaking. An industry group has approached EPA with a request to review proposals for environmental

effects testing of nonylphenol to be conducted later this year. EPA will examine these proposals in the context of a testing consent order. Should the Agency be unable to come to an agreement with interested parties for a testing consent order, a proposed test rule will be issued for any testing the Agency believes necessary for nonylphenol, as required under section 4 of TSCA.

III. Public Meetings

A public meeting will be held to discuss the Agency's evaluation of testing needs for nonylphenol and industry's testing proposals on October 27, 1987 at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held in Room 103 of the Northeast Mall in EPA Headquarters, located at 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC. Persons wishing to attend this meeting, or subsequent public meetings on nonylphenol, should notify the EPA TSCA Assistance Office at the telephone number provided above by October 20, 1987.

IV. Timetable for Negotiating Consent Agreements

In accordance with the procedures for the development of consent agreements in 40 CFR 790.22, a "target schedule" will be established for nonylphenol once a public meeting has been conducted to announce EPA's preliminary testing decisions. There is no statutory deadline for response from EPA to the TPC's recommendations for nonylphenol as is required for chemicals designated by the Interagency Testing Committee under TSCA section 4(e). However, the Agency plans to conduct nonylphenol negotiations in a timely manner.

Date: October 14, 1987.

J. Merenda,
Director, Existing Chemical Assessment
Division.

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